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Public Comments on Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment:=====

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I strongly support the FCC's plan to overhaul the infrastructure of our existing 9-1-1 architecture. Advances in communication technology have clearly outpaced the current architecture, which now runs the risk of becoming gradually more inaccessible. Adapting the system to handle internet protocol based technologies could both increase the accessibility of 9-1-1 and provide new methods of delivering help faster.

SMS communication needs to be a high priority. Using the described NG911 framework, just by texting "fire" to 911, a person in danger could communicate a request for immediate help to local fire and medical centers, along with his location and medical history. One concern I have, however, is what sort of response will this person get? On the phone it is easy to communicate that "help is on the way." Would they receive a text in reply to that effect? Someone trapped on a high floor of a burning building

would undoubtedly appreciate knowing help is coming. On the other hand, it's possible a response is undesirable ? consider a situation where, with his family held at gunpoint in his own home, a person is able to discretely text ?help? to 911. He might not have time to put his phone on silent, and a response text could make his assailant aware of the communication.

It is unlikely the FCC will be deemed to have the authority to unilaterally implement these changes. While the existing network was implemented on a local level, it may be advantageous to pass some aspects of NG911 through federal legislation. This could help hasten adaptation of the more advanced system.